

REMARKS

The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement on the pending claims, and requests election of one of the following groups:

I. Claims 1-34, drawn to a method for protecting epithelial tissue during photodynamic therapy, classified in class 514, subclass 410.

II. Claims 35-39, drawn to a device for protecting non-targeted epithelial tissue, classified in class 514, subclass 410.

III. Claims 41-43, drawn to a composition for use during photodynamic therapy, classified in class 514, subclass 410.

Applicants elect Group I, corresponding to claims 1-34 without traverse, reserving the right to file divisional applications related to the remaining two groups. Accordingly, claims 35-43 are canceled without prejudice.

Furthermore, with regard to the species election, Applicants elect the following:

Species A: aminolevulinic acid as a single pre-photosensitizing agent

Species B: 4-dioxoheptanoic acid as a single chemical inhibitor

Species C: aminolevulinic acid and 4-dioxoheptanoic acid as a specific combination of pre-photosensitizing agent and chemical inhibitor.

The election of species reads on claims 1-34.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that an interview would facilitate the resolution of any outstanding issues, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned.

In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted at this time, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to ensure that the above-identified application does not become abandoned.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 22727-110.

Dated: October 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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